

Modi Unmasked himself in USA

-Aloke Mukharjee

Little could both ex-President Donald Trump and the present President Joe Biden think when under tremendous internal and external pressure were forced to withdraw the US forces from Afghanistan that the puppet regime they built up over the years would crumble like a house of cards before Taliban advance. Even the armed forces so meticulously trained and armed with most modern weapons would give in without a semblance of resistance that might be passed as civil war in Afghanistan to allow them some time for diplomatic maneuvers.

Afghanistan had always been and still remains to be one of the most important areas of global strategy. So called 'aids', 'assistances' and 'participatory developments' are all other names of carrying on diplomatic, political, and even military maneuvers in economically weak countries. And that is being done by different powers to fish in the troubled waters. The US imperialism is now trying hard to regain its space in Afghanistan finding China has become the gainer. So the US needs some Asian ally, India had already been its partner. So the UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting gave them the opportunity to galvanize that alliance along with the so-called in-person meeting of the Heads of the QUAD members—the USA, Australia, Japan and India.

Afghanistan for the time being has become a setter of perspective for the vested global interests. The US visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a part of that perspective.

This time, however, the atmo-sphere among the Indians in the USA has changed. Instead of 'Howdy Modi' this time Narendra Modi was greeted by a protest rally at Lafayette Square in Washington DC against his "Mob Lynching/ Brutality against Students/Autocracy/Atrocities against Dalits/crushing Farmers' Protests/Suppression of Dissent/Bigotry/Fascism/Racism". But Modi had his agenda defined designed by the White House.

Let us discuss how did Modi play second fiddle to Biden during the three days he spent in the USA.

He met the US Vice-President Kamala Harris first to woe her because during her run for Vice-Presidency she was outspoken against Modi for his folly of open support to Trump. But Kamala knows business she just wanted India to follow the present dispensation throwing a few pies.

Modi himself has clarified what he did in the US. "Over the last few days have had productive bilateral and multilateral engagements, interaction with the CEOs and the UN address. I am confident that India-USA relationship will grow even stronger in the years to come. Our rich people-to-people linkages are among our strongest assets". Now examine it in the global perspective where the US and its allies are at daggers drawn against the

China-Russia-Pakistan alliance. They have started pulling all strings against China, because China is their main contender in the Asia-Pacific region. They have already arranged some of their African allies like Congo and Ghana to call off certain Chinese projects in the name of curtailing spending due to Covid situation and raising other issues against the Chinese enterprises.

Now in the interest of the US imperialists India is being pitted against China. That was the reason why Modi's first days were spent in meetings with the Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga and the US President Joe Biden. Then the in-person heads meeting of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), the name itself proves it is nothing other than a military alliance. It has the particular objective of maintaining maritime hegemony over the Indo-Pacific region. This time it had a clear aim to unite in managing the Afghanistan affairs after the situation developed after the US retreat.

Harsh Shringla, the Foreign Secretary of India, has been outspoken on it- "The QUAD meeting was very useful in putting together the objectives of the leaders had for Afghanistan". And Modi clarified that this objective is related to the global perspective of the US. He said loudly and clearly - "Biden's leadership will certainly play an important role in shaping the decade."

Modi did also clearly stated India's position in that shaping, "The seeds have been sown for an ever stronger relationship between India and the USA".

Now about the over hyped meetings with the five CEOs. Prime Ministers of economically weak countries would try to attract investment from big capitals of the metropolis is nothing new. But mostly it is intended to boost up production to strengthen economy, even under the imperialist clutches. But Modi's selection of the five companies and agreements reached are completely different. Let us take them one by one.

The first man to meet was Cristiano R. Amon, of QUALCOMM. We were told that they will produce semiconductors, softwares and most importantly services related to wireless. There are umpteen numbers of enterprises, big and small, who are experts in these fields. But QUALCOMM's expertise is different. It is related to productions for military purpose, who else needs services so much for wireless.

Next one was Adobe CEO, Shantanu Narayen. Adobe is well known in India for developing videos, especially for children. But Modi invited them to be partner in developing Digital India, meaning a real danger of large amount of sensitive data to go out of the country.

Third one was Mark Widmar, CEO of First Solar. They will set up 3.3 GW of solar power in India out of the planned 100 GW by 2022. Not a big deal at that, but the important question not publicized is where such plant or plants will be located. Will it be connected to military needs? Then, surely, it will compromise independence of military. Then comes deal directly connected to military. That was settled in the meeting with Vivek Lall, CEO of General Atomics. They will provide drone technology for defence. This is no accident that they set up their office first in India during Modi regime in 2018. An open arrangement to allow foreigners in development of sensitive military equipments. Pipeline.

The fifth and final one was with Stephen A. Schwarzman, CEO of Blackstone, a company known for investment management. Investments will be in National Infrastructure Pipelines and in National Monetisation Pipelines. Blackstone Real Estate Fund is said to be the largest owner of commercial real estates in India.

Message is clear. None of them will invest in productive sectors, most will be in military sectors. So the meetings with the five CEOs have no or little significance to the people of India except that through these much hyped meetings India's defence have been compromised to US investors.

Last was the speech in the UNGA. Modi himself knew it has very little significance to the world community. It was known to everyone that Modi was only playing second fiddle to his US counterpart. After haranguing on his acts relating to development of people's lives under his regime Modi confirmed the world assembly which side he is dragging India in the present global situation. He asserted that India is and will remain a sidekick of the USA in its global strategy so long Modi is at helm of affairs. At the same time he begged the US to stand by the side of India at the expense of its former ally Pakistan. Modi is mortally afraid of developing a fair and equality based people-to-people relationship between the two countries, India and the USA. So he avoided it by talking about 'rich linkages' only.

Precisely, this time Modi's purpose of visit to the US was to reassure the present ruling dispensation in the USA that India stands firmly by its side in its global hegemonic strategy, at a time when the US is at the receiving end post Afghanistan retreat. Modi wanted to get some small pies which the US was also contemplating to give to advance its own interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

Modi unmasked himself that his US visit was to sell India.